A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to economic development; amending s. 3 166.231, F.S.; revising industry code designation; amending s. 212.05, F.S.; revising industry code 4 5 designation; amending 212.08; revising industry code 6 designation; amending s. 212.097, F.S.; revising industry 7 code designation; amending 212.098, F.S.; revising 8 industry code designation; amending s. 220.15; revising 9 industry code designation; amending s. 220.191, F.S.; requiring applications for capital investment tax credits 10 11 to be reviewed and certified under a specified provision; 12 creating s. 288.061, F.S.; providing an economic 13 development incentive application process; providing time 14 periods and requirements for certification for economic development incentive applications; amending s. 288.063, 15 F.S.; requiring that adoption of criteria by which certain 16 17 transportation projects are to be reviewed and certified 18 be done in accordance with a specified provision; amending 19 s. 288.065, F.S.; revising Rural Community Development 20 Revolving Loan Fund population requirements; amending s. 21 288.0655, F.S.; authorizing the Office of Tourism, Trade, 22 and Economic Development to award grants for a certain percentage of total infrastructure project costs for 23 24 certain catalyst site funding applications; providing for 25 waiver of the local matching requirement; expanding 26 eligible facilities for authorized infrastructure 27 projects; amending s. 288.0656, F.S.; providing

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legislative intent; revising and providing definitions; providing certain additional review and action requirements for REDI relating to rural communities; revising representation on REDI; deleting a limitation on characterization as a rural area of critical economic concern; authorizing rural areas of critical economic concern to designate certain catalyst projects for certain purposes; providing project requirements; requiring the initiative to assist local governments with certain comprehensive planning needs; providing procedures and requirements for such assistance; revising certain reporting requirements for REDI; amending s. 288.06561, F.S., deleting paragraph reference; amending s. 288.0657, F.S.; revising the definition for a rural community; amending s. 288.1045, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the application and refund process for the qualified defense contractor tax refund program; revising the cap on refunds per applicant; deleting a report requirement; amending s. 288.106, F.S.; revising definitions; revising industry code designation; revising provisions relating to the application process for the qualified target industry businesses; revising an economic-stimulus exemption request provision; revising date for exemption requests; revising an expiration provision; amending s. 288.107, F.S.; providing additional criteria for participation in the brownfield redevelopment bonus refund; requiring that applications for brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds be

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reviewed and certified under a specified provision; amending s. 288.108, F.S.; requiring that applications for high-impact business performance grants be considered under a specified provision; deleting certain final order and report requirements; amending s. 288.1088, F.S.; requiring that applications concerning the Quick Action Closing Fund be considered under a specified provision; providing a time period for the director to recommend approval or disapproval of a project for receipt of funds from the Quick Action Closing Fund; removing Legislative Budget Commission review of appropriations for Quick Action Closing Fund; creating s. 288.10895, F.S.; providing for transfer of credits or incentives; defining eligible recipients by cross-reference; providing for amount of credit or incentive that may be transferred; providing conditions for use of transferred credit or incentive; providing a limitation on the number of transfers; providing eligibility of transfers; providing for recovery of transfers under certain conditions; providing rulemaking authority; excluding a certain type of tax credit from transfer provisions; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 166.231, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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166.231 Municipalities; public service tax.--

A municipality may exempt from the tax imposed by this section any amount up to, and including, the total amount of electricity, metered natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas either metered or bottled, or manufactured gas either metered or bottled purchased per month, or reduce the rate of taxation on the purchase of such electricity or gas when purchased by an industrial consumer which uses the electricity or gas directly in industrial manufacturing, processing, compounding, or a production process, at a fixed location in the municipality, of items of tangible personal property for sale. The municipality shall establish the requirements for qualification for this exemption in the manner prescribed by ordinance. Possession by a seller of a written certification by the purchaser, certifying the purchaser's entitlement to an exemption permitted by this subsection, relieves the seller from the responsibility of collecting the tax on the nontaxable amounts, and the municipality shall look solely to the purchaser for recovery of such tax if it determines that the purchaser was not entitled to the exemption. Any municipality granting an exemption pursuant to this subsection shall grant the exemption to all companies classified in the same NAICS Industry Number (five-digit number) SIC Industry Major Group Number.

Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section 212.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.05 Sales, storage, use tax.--It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that every person is exercising a

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taxable privilege who engages in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail in this state, including the business of making mail order sales, or who rents or furnishes any of the things or services taxable under this chapter, or who stores for use or consumption in this state any item or article of tangible personal property as defined herein and who leases or rents such property within the state.

- (1) For the exercise of such privilege, a tax is levied on each taxable transaction or incident, which tax is due and payable as follows:
 - (i)1. At the rate of 6 percent on charges for all:
- Detective, burglar protection, and other protection services (NAICS National Numbers 561611, 561612, 561613, and 561621 SIC Industry Numbers 7381 and 7382). Any law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10, who is performing approved duties as determined by his or her local law enforcement agency in his or her capacity as a law enforcement officer, and who is subject to the direct and immediate command of his or her law enforcement agency, and in the law enforcement officer's uniform as authorized by his or her law enforcement agency, is performing law enforcement and public safety services and is not performing detective, burglar protection, or other protective services, if the law enforcement officer is performing his or her approved duties in a geographical area in which the law enforcement officer has arrest jurisdiction. Such law enforcement and public safety services are not subject to tax irrespective of whether the duty is characterized as "extra

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duty," "off-duty," or "secondary employment," and irrespective of whether the officer is paid directly or through the officer's agency by an outside source. The term "law enforcement officer" includes full-time or part-time law enforcement officers, and any auxiliary law enforcement officer, when such auxiliary law enforcement officer is working under the direct supervision of a full-time or part-time law enforcement officer.

- b. Nonresidential cleaning and nonresidential pest control services ($\underline{NAICS\ National\ Numbers\ 561710,\ 561720,\ and\ 561790}$ SIC Industry Group Number 734).
- 2. As used in this paragraph, "NAICS SIC" means those classifications contained in the North American Industry

 Classification System Standard Industrial Classification Manual,

 1987, as published by the Office of Management and Budget,

 Executive Office of the President.
- 3. Charges for detective, burglar protection, and other protection security services performed in this state but used outside this state are exempt from taxation. Charges for detective, burglar protection, and other protection security services performed outside this state and used in this state are subject to tax.
- 4. If a transaction involves both the sale or use of a service taxable under this paragraph and the sale or use of a service or any other item not taxable under this chapter, the consideration paid must be separately identified and stated with respect to the taxable and exempt portions of the transaction or the entire transaction shall be presumed taxable. The burden

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shall be on the seller of the service or the purchaser of the service, whichever applicable, to overcome this presumption by providing documentary evidence as to which portion of the transaction is exempt from tax. The department is authorized to adjust the amount of consideration identified as the taxable and exempt portions of the transaction; however, a determination that the taxable and exempt portions are inaccurately stated and that the adjustment is applicable must be supported by substantial competent evidence.

5. Each seller of services subject to sales tax pursuant to this paragraph shall maintain a monthly log showing each transaction for which sales tax was not collected because the services meet the requirements of subparagraph 3. for out-of-state use. The log must identify the purchaser's name, location and mailing address, and federal employer identification number, if a business, or the social security number, if an individual, the service sold, the price of the service, the date of sale, the reason for the exemption, and the sales invoice number. The monthly log shall be maintained pursuant to the same requirements and subject to the same penalties imposed for the keeping of similar records pursuant to this chapter.

Section 3. Paragraphs (ff), (xx), and (yy) of subsection (7) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following

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are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS. -- Exemptions provided to any entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a representative or employee of the entity by any means, including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.
 - (ff) Certain electricity or steam uses. --
- 1. Subject to the provisions of subparagraph 4., charges for electricity or steam used to operate machinery and equipment at a fixed location in this state when such machinery and equipment is used to manufacture, process, compound, produce, or prepare for shipment items of tangible personal property for sale, or to operate pollution control equipment, recycling

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equipment, maintenance equipment, or monitoring or control equipment used in such operations are exempt to the extent provided in this paragraph. If 75 percent or more of the electricity or steam used at the fixed location is used to operate qualifying machinery or equipment, 100 percent of the charges for electricity or steam used at the fixed location are exempt. If less than 75 percent but 50 percent or more of the electricity or steam used at the fixed location is used to operate qualifying machinery or equipment, 50 percent of the charges for electricity or steam used at the fixed location are exempt. If less than 50 percent of the electricity or steam used at the fixed location is used to operate qualifying machinery or equipment, none of the charges for electricity or steam used at the fixed location are exempt.

- 2. This exemption applies only to industries classified under NAICS Sector Numbers 21, 31, 32, and 33 and NAICS National Numbers 113310, 238910, 488390, 511110, 511120, 511130, 511140, 511191, 511199, 512220, 512230, 516110, 541360, 541710, and 811490 SIC Industry Major Group Numbers 10, 12, 13, 14, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 and Industry Group Number 212. As used in this paragraph, "NAICS SIC" means those classifications contained in the North American Industry Classification System Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987, as published by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.
- 3. Possession by a seller of a written certification by the purchaser, certifying the purchaser's entitlement to an

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exemption permitted by this subsection, relieves the seller from the responsibility of collecting the tax on the nontaxable amounts, and the department shall look solely to the purchaser for recovery of such tax if it determines that the purchaser was not entitled to the exemption.

- 4. Such exemption shall be applied as follows: beginning July 1, 2000, 100 percent of the charges for such electricity or steam shall be exempt.
 - (xx) Certain repair and labor charges. --
- 1. Subject to the provisions of subparagraphs 2. and 3., there is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter all labor charges for the repair of, and parts and materials used in the repair of and incorporated into, industrial machinery and equipment which is used for the manufacture, processing, compounding, production, or preparation for shipping of items of tangible personal property at a fixed location within this state.
- 2. This exemption applies only to industries classified under NAICS Sector Numbers 21, 31, 32, and 33 and NAICS National Numbers 113310, 238910, 488390, 511110, 511120, 511130, 511140, 511191, 511199, 512220, 512230, 516110, 541360, 541710, and 811490 SIC Industry Major Group Numbers 10, 12, 13, 14, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 and Industry Group Number 212. As used in this subparagraph, "NAICS SIC" means those classifications contained in the North American Industry Classification System Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987, as published by the

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Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

- 3. This exemption shall be applied as follows:
- a. Beginning July 1, 2000, 50 percent of such charges for repair parts and labor shall be exempt.
 - b. Beginning July 1, 2001, 75 percent of such charges for repair parts and labor shall be exempt.
 - c. Beginning July 1, 2002, 100 percent of such charges for repair parts and labor shall be exempt.
 - the following materials purchased, produced, or created by businesses classified under NAICS National Numbers 323110, 323111, 323112, 323113, 323114, 323115, 323116, 323118, 323119, 323121, 323122, 511191, and 516110 SIC Industry Numbers 275, 276, 277, 278, or 279 for use in producing graphic matter for sale: film, photographic paper, dyes used for embossing and engraving, artwork, typography, lithographic plates, and negatives. As used in this paragraph, "NAICS SIC" means those classifications contained in the North American Industry Classification System Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987, as published by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.
 - Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 212.097, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 212.097 Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit Program. --
 - (1) As used in this section, the term:

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297 "Eligible business" means any sole proprietorship, 298 firm, partnership, or corporation that is located in a qualified 299 county and is predominantly engaged in, or is headquarters for a business predominantly engaged in, activities usually provided 300 for consideration by firms classified within the following 301 standard industrial classifications: NAICS Sector Number 11 $\frac{\text{SIC}}{\text{SIC}}$ 302 01-SIC 09 (agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and hunting); 303 304 NAICS Sector Numbers 31-33 and NAICS National Numbers 212324, 305 212325, 212393, and 212399 SIC 20-SIC 39 (manufacturing); NAICS 306 National Numbers 212324, 441110, 441120, 441210, 441221, 441222, 307 441229, 441310, 441320, 442110, 442210, 442291, 442299, 443111, 308 443112, 443120, 443130, 444110, 444120, 444130, 444190, 444210, 309 444220, 445110, 445120, 445210, 445220, 445230, 445291, 445292, 310 445299, 445310, 446110, 446120, 446130, 446191, 446199, 447110, 311 447190, 448110, 448120, 448130, 448140, 448150, 448190, 448210, 312 448310, 448320, 451110, 451120, 451130, 451140, 451211, 451212, 313 451220, 452111, 452112, 452910, 452990, 453110, 453210, 453220, 453310, 453910, 453920, 453930, 453991, 453998, 454111, 454112, 314 315 454113, 454210, 454311, 454312, 454319, 454390, 488390, 511110, 316 511120, 511130, 511140, 511191, 511199, 512220, 512230, 516110, 317 522298, 541320, 541710, 541940, 561730, 722213, 722330, 811490, 318 and 812910 SIC 52-SIC 57 and SIC 59 (retail); NAICS National 319 Numbers 493110, 493120, 493130, 493190, and 531130 SIC 422 320 (public warehousing and storage); NAICS National Numbers 721110, 721120, 721191, 721199, 721211, 721214, and 721310 SIC 70 321 322 (hotels and other lodging places); NAICS National Numbers 541710 323 SIC 7391 (research and development); NAICS National Numbers

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324 334612, 512110, 512191, 512199, 532220, 532490, 541214,541690, 325 561310, and 711510 $\overline{\text{SIC }781}$ (motion picture production and allied 326 services); NAICS National Number 713910 SIC 7992 (public golf 327 courses); and NAICS National Number 713110 SIC 7996 (amusement 328 parks). A call center or similar customer service operation that 329 services a multistate market or international market is also an 330 eligible business. In addition, the Office of Tourism, Trade, 331 and Economic Development may, as part of its final budget 332 request submitted pursuant to s. 216.023, recommend additions to 333 or deletions from the list of standard industrial 334 classifications used to determine an eliqible business, and the 335 Legislature may implement such recommendations. Excluded from eligible receipts are receipts from retail sales, except such 336 337 receipts for NAICS National Numbers 311330, 311340, 311811, 338 314121, 314129, 315222, 315233, 327112, 337110, 337121, 337122, 339 339113, 339115, 441110, 441120, 441210, 441221, 441222, 441229, 340 441310, 441320, 442110, 442210, 442291, 442299, 443111, 443112, 341 443120, 443130, 444110, 444120, 444130, 444190, 444210, 444220, 342 445110, 445120, 445210, 445220, 445230, 445291, 445292, 445299, 343 445310, 446110, 446120, 446130, 446191, 446199, 447110, 447190, 344 448110, 448120, 448130, 448140, 448150, 448190, 448210, 448310, 345 448320, 451110, 451120, 451130, 451140, 451211, 451212, 451220, 346 452111, 452112, 452910, 452990, 453110, 453210, 453220, 453310, 347 453910, 453920, 453930, 453991, 453998, 454111, 454112, 454113, 348 454210, 454311, 454312, 454319, 454390, 522298, 722213, and 349 722330 $\frac{\text{SIC}}{52-\text{SIC}}$ 57 and $\frac{\text{SIC}}{59}$ (retail), hotels and other 350 lodging places classified in NAICS National Numbers 721110,

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721120, 721191, 721199, 721211, 721214, and 721310 SIC 70, public golf courses in NAICS National Number 713910 SIC 7992, and amusement parks in NAICS National Number 713110 SIC 7996. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "predominantly" means that more than 50 percent of the business's gross receipts from all sources is generated by those activities usually provided for consideration by firms in the specified standard industrial classification. The determination of whether the business is located in a qualified high-crime area and the tier ranking of that area must be based on the date of application for the credit under this section. Commonly owned and controlled entities are to be considered a single business entity.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 212.098, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.098 Rural Job Tax Credit Program. --

- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Eligible business" means any sole proprietorship, firm, partnership, or corporation that is located in a qualified county and is predominantly engaged in, or is headquarters for a business predominantly engaged in, activities usually provided for consideration by firms classified within the following standard industrial classifications: NAICS Sector Number 11 and NAICS National Numbers 541320, 541940, 561730, and 812910 SIC O1-SIC O9 (agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and hunting); NAICS Sector Numbers 31-33 and NAICS National Numbers 212324, 212325, 212393, 212399, 488390, 511110, 511120, 511130, 511140, 511191, 511199, 512220, 512230, 516110, 541710, and 811490 SIC

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378 20-SIC 39 (manufacturing); NAICS National Numbers 493110, 379 493120, 493130, 493190, and 531130 SIC 422 (public warehousing 380 and storage); NAICS National Numbers 721110, 721120, 721191, 721199, 721211, 721214, and 721310 $\frac{1}{1}$ (hotels and other 381 382 lodging places); NAICS National Numbers 541710 SIC 7391 383 (research and development); NAICS National Numbers 334612, 512110, 512191, 512199, 532220, 532490, 541214, 541690, 561310, 384 385 and 711510 SIC 781 (motion picture production and allied 386 services); NAICS National Number 713910 SIC 7992 (public golf 387 courses); NAICS National Number 713110 SIC 7996 (amusement 388 parks); and a targeted industry eligible for the qualified 389 target industry business tax refund under s. 288.106. A call center or similar customer service operation that services a 390 391 multistate market or an international market is also an eligible 392 business. In addition, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and 393 Economic Development may, as part of its final budget request 394 submitted pursuant to s. 216.023, recommend additions to or 395 deletions from the list of standard industrial classifications 396 used to determine an eligible business, and the Legislature may 397 implement such recommendations. Excluded from eligible receipts 398 are receipts from retail sales, except such receipts for hotels and other lodging places classified in NAICS National Numbers 399 400 721110, 721120, 721191, 721199, 721211, 721214, and 721310 SIC 70, public golf courses in NAICS National Number 713910 SIC 401 402 7992, and amusement parks in NAICS National Number 713110 SIC 403 7996. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "predominantly" 404 means that more than 50 percent of the business's gross receipts

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from all sources is generated by those activities usually provided for consideration by firms in the specified standard industrial classification. The determination of whether the business is located in a qualified county and the tier ranking of that county must be based on the date of application for the credit under this section. Commonly owned and controlled entities are to be considered a single business entity.

Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 220.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 220.15 Apportionment of adjusted federal income. --
- (5) The sales factor is a fraction the numerator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer in this state during the taxable year or period and the denominator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer everywhere during the taxable year or period.
- (b) 1. Sales of tangible personal property occur in this state if the property is delivered or shipped to a purchaser within this state, regardless of the f.o.b. point, other conditions of the sale, or ultimate destination of the property, unless shipment is made via a common or contract carrier. However, for industries in NAICS National Number 311411 STC Industry Number 2037, if the ultimate destination of the product is to a location outside this state, regardless of the method of shipment or f.o.b. point, the sale shall not be deemed to occur in this state.
- 2. When citrus fruit is delivered by a cooperative for a grower-member, by a grower-member to a cooperative, or by a

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grower-participant to a Florida processor, the sales factor for the growers for such citrus fruit delivered to such processor shall be the same as the sales factor for the most recent taxable year of that processor. That sales factor, expressed only as a percentage and not in terms of the dollar volume of sales, so as to protect the confidentiality of the sales of the processor, shall be furnished on the request of such a grower promptly after it has been determined for that taxable year.

- 3. Reimbursement of expenses under an agency contract between a cooperative, a grower-member of a cooperative, or a grower and a processor is not a sale within this state.
- Section 7. Subsection (5) of section 220.191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 220.191 Capital investment tax credit.--
- (5) Applications shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. The office, upon a recommendation by Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall first certify a business as eligible to receive tax credits pursuant to this section prior to the commencement of operations of a qualifying project, and such certification shall be transmitted to the Department of Revenue. Upon receipt of the certification, the Department of Revenue shall enter into a written agreement with the qualifying business specifying, at a minimum, the method by which income generated by or arising out of the qualifying project will be determined.

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Section 8. Section 288.061, Florida Statutes, is created

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to read:

<u>288.061</u> . Economic Development Incentive Application <u>Process --</u>

- (1) Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall review each submitted economic development incentive application and inform the applicant business whether or not its application is complete within 10 business days of receipt of an application. Once the application is deemed complete, Enterprise Florida, Inc., has 10 business days to evaluate the application and recommend approval or disapproval of the application to the director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. In recommending an applicant business for approval, Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall include in its evaluation a recommended grant award amount and a review of the applicant's ability to meet specific program criteria.
- (2) Upon receipt of the evaluation and recommendation from Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development has 10 calendar days to notify Enterprise Florida, Inc., whether or not the application is reviewable. The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development has 22 calendar days from the time the recommendation was received from Enterprise Florida, Inc., to review the application and issue a letter of certification to the applicant that either approves or disapproves an applicant business that includes justification, unless the business requests an extension of the time. The final order shall specify the total amount of the award, the performance conditions that must be met to obtain the award, and the schedule for payment.

Section 9. Subsection (4) of section 288.063, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.063 Contracts for transportation projects. --

The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may adopt criteria by which transportation projects are to be reviewed and certified in accordance with s. 288.061 specified and identified. In approving transportation projects for funding, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the cost per job created or retained considering the amount of transportation funds requested; the average hourly rate of wages for jobs created; the reliance on the program as an inducement for the project's location decision; the amount of capital investment to be made by the business; the demonstrated local commitment; the location of the project in an enterprise zone designated pursuant to s. 290.0055; the location of the project in a spaceport territory as defined in s. 331.304; the unemployment rate of the surrounding area; the poverty rate of the community; and the adoption of an economic element as part of its local comprehensive plan in accordance with s. 163.3177(7)(j). The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may contact any agency it deems appropriate for additional input regarding the approval of projects. Section 10. Subsection (2) of section 288.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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288.065 Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund. --

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The program shall provide for long-term loans, loan guarantees, and loan loss reserves to units of local governments, or economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government, within counties with populations of 75,000 or less, or within any county that has a population of 125,000 $\frac{100,000}{100}$ or less and is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less, as determined by the most recent official estimate pursuant to s. 186.901, residing in incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county, within any county with a population density of no more than 550 persons per square mile and is contiguous to either Alabama or Georgia, or to units of local government, or economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government, within a rural area of critical economic concern. Requests for loans shall be made by application to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. Loans shall be made pursuant to agreements specifying the terms and conditions agreed to between the applicant and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The loans shall be the legal obligations of the applicant. All repayments of principal and interest shall be returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other applicants. However, in a rural area of critical economic concern designated by the Governor, and upon approval by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, repayments of principal and interest may be retained by the applicant if such repayments are dedicated and matched to fund regionally based economic development

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organizations representing the rural area of critical economic concern.

Section 11. Paragraphs (b) and (e) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 288.0655, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.--

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To facilitate access of rural communities and rural (b) areas of critical economic concern as defined by the Rural Economic Development Initiative to infrastructure funding programs of the Federal Government, such as those offered by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Commerce, and state programs, including those offered by Rural Economic Development Initiative agencies, and to facilitate local government or private infrastructure funding efforts, the office may award grants for up to 30 percent of the total infrastructure project cost. If an application for funding is for a catalyst site, as defined in s. 288.0656, the office may award grants for up to 40 percent of the total infrastructure project cost. Eligible projects must be related to specific job-creation or job-retention opportunities. Eliqible projects may also include improving any inadequate infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action that prohibits economic or community growth or reducing the costs to community users of proposed infrastructure improvements that exceed such costs in comparable communities. Eligible uses of funds shall include improvements to public infrastructure for

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566 industrial or commercial sites and upgrades to or development of 567 public tourism infrastructure. Authorized infrastructure may 568 include the following public or public-private partnership 569 facilities: storm water systems; telecommunications facilities; 570 broadband; roads or other remedies to transportation 571 impediments; nature-based tourism facilities; or other physical 572 requirements necessary to facilitate tourism, trade, and 573 economic development activities in the community. Authorized 574 infrastructure may also include publicly or privately owned: 575 self-powered nature-based tourism facilities; 576 telecommunications; broadband; and additions to the distribution 577 facilities of the existing natural gas utility as defined in s. 366.04(3)(c), the existing electric utility as defined in s. 578 579 366.02, or the existing water or wastewater utility as defined 580 in s. 367.021(12), or any other existing water or wastewater 581 facility, which owns a gas or electric distribution system or a 582 water or wastewater system in this state where:

- 1. A contribution-in-aid of construction is required to serve public or public-private partnership facilities under the tariffs of any natural gas, electric, water, or wastewater utility as defined herein; and
- 2. Such utilities as defined herein are willing and able to provide such service.
- (e) To enable local governments to access the resources available pursuant to s. 403.973(18), the office may award grants for surveys, feasibility studies, and other activities related to the identification and preclearance review of land

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which is suitable for preclearance review. Authorized grants under this paragraph shall not exceed \$75,000 each, except in the case of a project in a rural area of critical economic concern, in which case the grant shall not exceed \$300,000. Any funds awarded under this paragraph must be matched at a level of 50 percent with local funds, except that any funds awarded for a project in a rural area of critical economic concern must be matched at a level of 33 percent with local funds. If an application for funding is for a catalyst site, as defined in s. 288.0656, the requirement for local match may be waived. In evaluating applications under this paragraph, the office shall consider the extent to which the application seeks to minimize administrative and consultant expenses.

- (3) The office, in consultation with Enterprise Florida, Inc., VISIT Florida, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as appropriate, shall review and certify applications pursuant to s. 288.061. The review shall include an evaluation of and evaluate the economic benefit of the projects and their long-term viability. The office shall have final approval for any grant under this section and must make a grant decision within 30 days of receiving a completed application.
- Section 12. Section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative .--
- (1) (a) Recognizing that rural communities and regions continue to face extraordinary challenges in their efforts to

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achieve significant improvements to their economies, specifically in terms of personal income, job creation, average wages, and strong tax bases, it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage and facilitate the location and expansion in such rural communities of major economic development projects of significant scale.

- (b) The Rural Economic Development Initiative, known as "REDI," is created within the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, and the participation of state and regional agencies in this initiative is authorized.
 - (2) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Catalyst project" means a business locating or expanding in a rural area of critical economic concern to serve as an economic growth opportunity of regional significance for the growth of a regional target industry cluster. The project must provide capital investment on a scale significant enough to affect the entire region and result in the development of high-wage and high-skill jobs.
- within a rural area of critical economic concern that has been prioritized as a geographic site for economic development through partnerships with state, regional, and local organizations. The site must be reviewed by REDI and approved by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for purposes of locating a catalyst project.
- (c) (a) "Economic distress" means conditions affecting the fiscal and economic viability of a rural community, including

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such factors as low per capita income, low per capita taxable values, high unemployment, high underemployment, low weekly earned wages compared to the state average, low housing values compared to the state average, high percentages of the population receiving public assistance, high poverty levels compared to the state average, and a lack of year-round stable employment opportunities.

- (d) "Rural area of critical economic concern" means a rural community, or a region composed of rural communities, designated by the Governor, that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic distress, or a natural disaster or that presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact.
 - (e) (b) "Rural community" means:
 - 1. A county with a population of 75,000 or less.
- 2. A county with a population of $\underline{125,000}$ $\underline{100,000}$ or less that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less.
- 3. A county with a population density of no more than 550 persons per square mile and is contiguous to either Alabama or Georgia.
- $\underline{43}$. A municipality within a county described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.
- $\underline{54}$. An unincorporated federal enterprise community or an incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or less and an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or resource-based industries, located in a county not defined as

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rural, which has at least three or more of the economic distress factors identified in paragraph (a) and verified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

- For purposes of this paragraph, population shall be determined in accordance with the most recent official estimate pursuant to s. 186.901.
- (3) REDI shall be responsible for coordinating and focusing the efforts and resources of state and regional agencies on the problems which affect the fiscal, economic, and community viability of Florida's economically distressed rural communities, working with local governments, community-based organizations, and private organizations that have an interest in the growth and development of these communities to find ways to balance environmental and growth management issues with local needs.
- (4) REDI shall review and evaluate the impact of statutes and rules on rural communities and shall work to minimize any adverse impact and undertake outreach and capacity building efforts.
- (5) REDI shall facilitate better access to state resources by promoting direct access and referrals to appropriate state and regional agencies and statewide organizations. REDI may undertake outreach, capacity-building, and other advocacy efforts to improve conditions in rural communities. These activities may include sponsorship of conferences and achievement awards.

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- By August 1 of each year, the head of each of the following agencies and organizations shall designate a highlevel staff person from within the agency or organization to serve as the REDI representative for the agency or organization:
 - 1. The Department of Community Affairs.
 - 2. The Department of Transportation.
 - 3. The Department of Environmental Protection.
- 708 4. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- 709 5. The Department of State.
 - 6. The Department of Health.
- 711 7. The Department of Children and Family Services.
- 712 8. The Department of Corrections.
 - 9. The Agency for Workforce Innovation.
 - 10. The Department of Education.
 - 11. The Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 716 12. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 717 13. Each water management district.
- 718 14. Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- 719 15. Workforce Florida, Inc.
- 720 16. The Florida Commission on Tourism or VISIT Florida.
 - 17. The Florida Regional Planning Council Association.
- 722 18. The Agency for Health Care Administration Florida
- 723 State Rural Development Council.
- 724 19. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences 725 (IFAS).

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An alternate for each designee shall also be chosen, and the names of the designees and alternates shall be sent to the director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

- (b) Each REDI representative must have comprehensive knowledge of his or her agency's functions, both regulatory and service in nature, and of the state's economic goals, policies, and programs. This person shall be the primary point of contact for his or her agency with REDI on issues and projects relating to economically distressed rural communities and with regard to expediting project review, shall ensure a prompt effective response to problems arising with regard to rural issues, and shall work closely with the other REDI representatives in the identification of opportunities for preferential awards of program funds and allowances and waiver of program requirements when necessary to encourage and facilitate long-term private capital investment and job creation.
- (c) The REDI representatives shall work with REDI in the review and evaluation of statutes and rules for adverse impact on rural communities and the development of alternative proposals to mitigate that impact.
- (d) Each REDI representative shall be responsible for ensuring that each district office or facility of his or her agency is informed about the Rural Economic Development Initiative and for providing assistance throughout the agency in the implementation of REDI activities.

(7)(a) REDI may recommend to the Governor up to three rural areas of critical economic concern. A rural area of critical economic concern must be a rural community, or a region composed of such, that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event or a natural disaster or that presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact that will create more than 1,000 jobs over a period. The Governor may by executive order designate up to three rural areas of critical economic concern which will establish these areas as priority assignments for REDI as well as to allow the Governor, acting through REDI, to waive criteria, requirements, or similar provisions of any economic development incentive. Such incentives shall include, but not be limited to: the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program under s. 288.106, the Quick Response Training Program under s. 288.047, the Quick Response Training Program for participants in the welfare transition program under s. 288.047(8), transportation projects under s. 288.063, the brownfield redevelopment bonus refund under s. 288.107, and the rural job tax credit program under ss. 212.098 and 220.1895.

(b) Designation as a rural area of critical economic concern under this subsection shall be contingent upon the execution of a memorandum of agreement among the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; the governing body of the county; and the governing bodies of any municipalities to be included within a rural area of critical economic concern. Such agreement shall specify the terms and conditions of the

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designation, including, but not limited to, the duties and responsibilities of the county and any participating municipalities to take actions designed to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses in the area, as well as the recruitment of new businesses to the area.

- designate catalyst projects, provided that each catalyst project is specifically recommended by REDI, identified as a catalyst project by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and confirmed as a catalyst project by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. All state agencies and departments shall use all available tools and resources to the extent permissible by law to promote the creation and development of each catalyst project and the development of catalyst sites.
- (8) REDI shall assist local governments within rural areas of critical economic concern with comprehensive planning needs that further the provisions of this section. Such assistance shall reflect a multidisciplinary approach among all agencies and include economic development and planning objectives.
- (a) A local government may request assistance in the preparation of comprehensive plan amendments, pursuant to part II of chapter 163, that will stimulate economic activity.
- 1. The local government must contact the Office of

 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to request assistance.
- 2. REDI representatives shall meet with the local government within 15 days after such request to develop the scope of assistance that will be provided to assist the

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development, transmittal, and adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan amendment.

- 3. As part of the assistance provided, REDI representatives shall also identify other needed local and developer actions for approval of the project and recommend a timeline for the local government and developer that will minimize project delays.
- (b) In addition, REDI shall solicit requests each year for assistance from local governments within a rural area of critical economic concern to update the future land use element and other associated elements of the local government's comprehensive plan to better position the community to respond to economic development potential within the county or municipality. REDI shall provide direct assistance to such local governments to update their comprehensive plans pursuant to this paragraph. At least one comprehensive planning technical assistance effort shall be selected each year.
- (c) REDI shall develop and annually update a technical assistance manual based upon experiences learned in providing direct assistance under this subsection.
- (9) (8) REDI shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each year on or before September February 1 on all REDI activities for the prior fiscal year. This report shall include a status report on all projects currently being coordinated through REDI, the number of preferential awards and allowances made pursuant to this section, the dollar amount of

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such awards, and the names of the recipients. The report shall also include a description of all waivers of program requirements granted. The report shall also include information as to the economic impact of the projects coordinated by REDI.

Section 13. Section 288.06561, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.06561 Reduction or waiver of financial match requirements.—Notwithstanding any other law, the member agencies and organizations of the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), as defined in s. 288.0656(6)(a), shall review the financial match requirements for projects in rural areas as defined in s. 288.0656(2)(b).

- (1) Each agency and organization shall develop a proposal to waive or reduce the match requirement for rural areas.
- (2) Agencies and organizations shall ensure that all proposals are submitted to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for review by the REDI agencies.
- (3) These proposals shall be delivered to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for distribution to the REDI agencies and organizations. A meeting of REDI agencies and organizations must be called within 30 days after receipt of such proposals for REDI comment and recommendations on each proposal.
- (4) Waivers and reductions must be requested by the county or community, and such county or community must have three or more of the factors identified in s. 288.0656(2)(a).

- (5) Any other funds available to the project may be used for financial match of federal programs when there is fiscal hardship, and the match requirements may not be waived or reduced.
- (6) When match requirements are not reduced or eliminated, donations of land, though usually not recognized as an in-kind match, may be permitted.
- (7) To the fullest extent possible, agencies and organizations shall expedite the rule adoption and amendment process if necessary to incorporate the reduction in match by rural areas in fiscal distress.
- (8) REDI shall include in its annual report an evaluation on the status of changes to rules, number of awards made with waivers, and recommendations for future changes.
- Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 288.0657, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 288.0657 Florida rural economic development strategy grants.--
- (1) As used in this section, the term "rural community" means:
 - (a) A county with a population of 75,000 or less.
- (b) A county with a population of $\underline{125,000}$ $\underline{100,000}$ or less that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less.
- (c) A county with a population density of no more than 550 persons per square mile and is contiguous to either Alabama or Georgia.

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 (\underline{de}) A municipality within a county described in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).

For purposes of this subsection, population shall be determined in accordance with the most recent official estimate pursuant to s. 186.901.

- Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2), paragraphs (g) and (h) of subsection (3), and paragraph (c) of subsection
- (5) of section 288.1045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.1045 Qualified defense contractor and space flight business tax refund program.--

- (2) GRANTING OF A TAX REFUND; ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS.--
- (c) A qualified applicant may not receive more than $\frac{$5}{}$ \$7.5 million in tax refunds pursuant to this section in all fiscal years.
- (3) APPLICATION PROCESS; REQUIREMENTS; AGENCY DETERMINATION.--
- (g) Applications shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. If appropriate, the director shall enter into a written agreement with the qualified applicant pursuant to subsection (4). The office shall forward its written findings and evaluation on each application meeting the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (e), paragraphs (c) and (e), paragraphs (d) and (e), or paragraphs (e) and (k) to the director within 60 calendar days after receipt of a complete application. The office shall notify each applicant when its application is complete, and when the 60-day period begins. In its written

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report to the director, the office shall specifically address each of the factors specified in paragraph (f), and shall make a specific assessment with respect to the minimum requirements established in paragraph (e). The office shall include in its report projections of the tax refunds the applicant would be eligible to receive in each fiscal year based on the creation and maintenance of the net new Florida jobs specified in subparagraph (b) 6., subparagraph (c) 6., subparagraph (d) 7., or subparagraph (k) 6. as of December 31 of the preceding state fiscal year.

- (h) Within 30 days after receipt of the office's findings and evaluation, the director shall issue a letter of certification which either approves or disapproves an application. The decision must be in writing and provide the justifications for either approval or disapproval. If appropriate, the director shall enter into a written agreement with the qualified applicant pursuant to subsection (4).
 - (5) ANNUAL CLAIM FOR REFUND. --
- (c) A tax refund may not be approved for any qualified applicant unless local financial support has been paid to the Economic Development Trust Fund for that refund. If the local financial support is less than 20 percent of the approved tax refund, the tax refund shall be reduced. The tax refund paid may not exceed 5 times the local financial support received. Funding from local sources includes tax abatement under s. 196.1995 or the appraised market value of municipal or county land, including any improvements or structures, conveyed or provided

at a discount through a sale or lease to that applicant. The amount of any tax refund for an applicant approved under this section shall be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement granted or the value of the land granted, including the value of any improvements or structures; and the limitations in subsection (2) and paragraph (3)(h) shall be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement or the value of the land granted, including any improvements or structures. A report listing all sources of the local financial support shall be provided to the office when such support is paid to the Economic Development Trust Fund.

Section 16. Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.106 Tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses.--

- (1) DEFINITIONS. -- As used in this section:
- (k) "Local financial support exemption option" means the option to exercise an exemption from the local financial support requirement available to any applicant whose project is located in a brownfield area or a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer, or a county with a population of 125,000 100,000 or fewer, or a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer, or a county with a population density of no more than 550 persons per square mile and is contiguous to either Alabama or Georgia. Any applicant that exercises this option shall not be eligible for more than 80 percent of the total tax refunds allowed such applicant under this section.

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(t) "Rural community" means:

- 1. A county with a population of 75,000 or less.
- 2. A county with a population of $\underline{125,000}$ $\underline{100,000}$ or less that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less.
- 3. A county with a population density of no more than 550 persons per square mile and is contiguous to either Alabama or Georgia.
- $\underline{43}$. A municipality within a county described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.

For purposes of this paragraph, population shall be determined in accordance with the most recent official estimate pursuant to s. 186.901.

- (3) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS. --
- (a) To apply for certification as a qualified target industry business under this section, the business must file an application with the office before the business has made the decision to locate a new business in this state or before the business had made the decision to expand an existing business in this state. The application shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:
- 1. The applicant's federal employer identification number and the applicant's state sales tax registration number.
- 2. The permanent location of the applicant's facility in this state at which the project is or is to be located.

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- 3. A description of the type of business activity or product covered by the project, including <u>a minimum of a five-digit four-digit NAICS code</u> <u>SIC codes</u> for all activities included in the project.
- 4. The number of net new full-time equivalent Florida jobs at the qualified target industry business as of December 31 of each year included in the project and the average wage of those jobs. If more than one type of business activity or product is included in the project, the number of jobs and average wage for those jobs must be separately stated for each type of business activity or product.
- 5. The total number of full-time equivalent employees employed by the applicant in this state.
 - 6. The anticipated commencement date of the project.
- 7. A brief statement concerning the role that the tax refunds requested will play in the decision of the applicant to locate or expand in this state.
- 8. An estimate of the proportion of the sales resulting from the project that will be made outside this state.
- 9. A resolution adopted by the governing board of the county or municipality in which the project will be located, which resolution recommends that certain types of businesses be approved as a qualified target industry business and states that the commitments of local financial support necessary for the target industry business exist. In advance of the passage of such resolution, the office may also accept an official letter from an authorized local economic development agency that

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endorses the proposed target industry project and pledges that sources of local financial support for such project exist. For the purposes of making pledges of local financial support under this subsection, the authorized local economic development agency shall be officially designated by the passage of a one-time resolution by the local governing authority.

- 10. Any additional information requested by the office.
- (b) To qualify for review by the office, the application of a target industry business must, at a minimum, establish the following to the satisfaction of the office:
- The jobs proposed to be provided under the application, pursuant to subparagraph (a)4., must pay an estimated annual average wage equaling at least 115 percent of the average private sector wage in the area where the business is to be located or the statewide private sector average wage. In determining the average annual wage, the office shall only include new proposed jobs, and wages for existing jobs shall be excluded from this calculation. The office may waive the this average wage requirement at the request of the local governing body recommending the project and Enterprise Florida, Inc. The wage requirement may only be waived for a project located in a brownfield area designated under s. 376.80 or in a rural city or county or in an enterprise zone and only when the merits of the individual project or the specific circumstances in the community in relationship to the project warrant such action. If the local governing body and Enterprise Florida, Inc., make such a recommendation, it must be transmitted in writing and the

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specific justification for the waiver recommendation must be explained. If the director elects to waive the wage requirement, the waiver must be stated in writing and the reasons for granting the waiver must be explained.

- The target industry business's project must result in the creation of at least 10 jobs at such project and, if an expansion of an existing business, must result in a net increase in employment of at least not less than 10 percent at the such business. Notwithstanding the definition of the term "expansion of an existing business" in paragraph (1)(g), at the request of the local governing body recommending the project and Enterprise Florida, Inc., the office may define an "expansion of an existing business" in a rural community or an enterprise zone as the expansion of a business resulting in a net increase in employment of less than 10 percent at such business if the merits of the individual project or the specific circumstances in the community in relationship to the project warrant such action. If the local governing body and Enterprise Florida, Inc., make such a request, it must be transmitted in writing and the specific justification for the request must be explained. If the director elects to grant the such request, it such election must be stated in writing and the reason for granting the request must be explained.
- 3. The business activity or product for the applicant's project is within an industry or industries that have been identified by the office to be high-value-added industries that contribute to the area and to the economic growth of the state

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and that produce a higher standard of living for <u>residents</u> citizens of this state in the new global economy or that can be shown to make an equivalent contribution to the area and state's economic progress. The director must approve requests to waive the wage requirement for brownfield areas designated under s. 376.80 unless it is demonstrated that such action is not in the public interest.

- (c) Each application meeting the requirements of paragraph (b) must be submitted to the office for determination of eligibility. The office shall review and evaluate each application based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:
- 1. Expected contributions to the state strategic economic development plan adopted by Enterprise Florida, Inc., taking into account the long-term effects of the project and of the applicant on the state economy.
- 2. The economic benefit of the jobs created by the project in this state, taking into account the cost and average wage of each job created.
- 3. The amount of capital investment to be made by the applicant in this state.
 - 4. The local commitment and support for the project.
- 5. The effect of the project on the local community, taking into account the unemployment rate for the county where the project will be located.
- 6. The effect of any tax refunds granted pursuant to this section on the viability of the project and the probability that

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the project will be undertaken in this state if such tax refunds are granted to the applicant, taking into account the expected long-term commitment of the applicant to economic growth and employment in this state.

- 7. The expected long-term commitment to this state resulting from the project.
- 8. A review of the business's past activities in this state or other states, including whether such business has been subjected to criminal or civil fines and penalties. Nothing in This subparagraph does not shall require the disclosure of confidential information.
- Applications shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. The office shall forward its written findings and evaluation concerning each application meeting the requirements of paragraph (b) to the director within 45 calendar days after receipt of a complete application. The office shall notify each target industry business when its application is complete, and of the time when the 45-day period begins. In its written report to the director, the office shall specifically address each of the factors specified in paragraph (c) and shall make a specific assessment with respect to the minimum requirements established in paragraph (b). The office shall include in its review report projections of the tax refunds the business would be eligible to receive in each fiscal year based on the creation and maintenance of the net new Florida jobs specified in subparagraph (a) 4. as of December 31 of the preceding state fiscal year. If appropriate, the director shall enter into a

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written agreement with the qualified target industry business pursuant to subsection (4).

- (e)1. Within 30 days after receipt of the office's findings and evaluation, the director shall issue a letter of certification that either approves or disapproves the application of the target industry business. The decision must be in writing and must provide the justifications for approval or disapproval.
- 2. If appropriate, the director shall enter into a written agreement with the qualified target industry business pursuant to subsection (4).
- (e) (f) The director may not certify any target industry business as a qualified target industry business if the value of tax refunds to be included in that letter of certification exceeds the available amount of authority to certify new businesses as determined in s. 288.095(3). However, if the commitments of local financial support represent less than 20 percent of the eligible tax refund payments, or to otherwise preserve the viability and fiscal integrity of the program, the director may certify a qualified target industry business to receive tax refund payments of less than the allowable amounts specified in paragraph (2)(b). A letter of certification that approves an application must specify the maximum amount of tax refund that will be available to the qualified industry business in each fiscal year and the total amount of tax refunds that will be available to the business for all fiscal years.

- <u>(f)(g)</u> Nothing in This section <u>does not</u> shall create a presumption that an applicant <u>shall</u> will receive any tax refunds under this section. However, the office may issue nonbinding opinion letters, upon the request of prospective applicants, as to the applicants' eligibility and the potential amount of refunds.
 - (4) TAX REFUND AGREEMENT. --
- (a) Each qualified target industry business must enter into a written agreement with the office which specifies, at a minimum:
- 1. The total number of full-time equivalent jobs in this state that will be dedicated to the project, the average wage of those jobs, the definitions that will apply for measuring the achievement of these terms during the pendency of the agreement, and a time schedule or plan for when such jobs will be in place and active in this state.
- 2. The maximum amount of tax refunds which the qualified target industry business is eligible to receive on the project and the maximum amount of a tax refund that the qualified target industry business is eligible to receive for each fiscal year, based on the job creation and maintenance schedule specified in subparagraph 1.
- 3. That the office may review and verify the financial and personnel records of the qualified target industry business to ascertain whether that business is in compliance with this section.

- 4. The date by which, in each fiscal year, the qualified target industry business may file a claim under subsection (5) to be considered to receive a tax refund in the following fiscal year.
- 5. That local financial support will be annually available and will be paid to the account. The director may not enter into a written agreement with a qualified target industry business if the local financial support resolution is not passed by the local governing authority within 90 days after he or she has issued the letter of certification under subsection (3).
- (b) Compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement is a condition precedent for the receipt of a tax refund each year. The failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the tax refund agreement results in the loss of eligibility for receipt of all tax refunds previously authorized under this section and the revocation by the director of the certification of the business entity as a qualified target industry business, unless the business is eligible to receive and elects to accept a prorated refund under paragraph (5)(d) or the office grants the business an economic-stimulus exemption.
- 1. A qualified target industry business may submit, in writing, a request to the office for an economic-stimulus exemption. The request must provide quantitative evidence demonstrating how negative economic conditions in the business's industry, the effects of the impact of a named hurricane or tropical storm, or specific acts of terrorism affecting the qualified target industry business have prevented the business

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from complying with the terms and conditions of its tax refund agreement.

- 2. Upon receipt of a request under subparagraph 1., the director shall have 45 days to notify the requesting business, in writing, if its exemption has been granted or denied. In determining if an exemption should be granted, the director shall consider the extent to which negative economic conditions in the requesting business's industry have occurred in the state, or the effects of the impact of a named hurricane or tropical storm, or specific acts of terrorism affecting the qualified target industry business that have prevented the business from complying with the terms and conditions of its tax refund agreement. The office shall consider Florida current employment statistics by industry, including whether the business's industry had substantial job loss during the prior year, when determining whether an exemption shall be granted.
- 3. As a condition for receiving a prorated refund under paragraph (5)(d) or an economic-stimulus exemption under this paragraph, a qualified target industry business must agree to renegotiate its tax refund agreement with the office to, at a minimum, ensure that the terms of the agreement comply with current law and office procedures governing application for and award of tax refunds. Upon approving the award of a prorated refund or granting an economic-stimulus exemption, the office shall renegotiate the tax refund agreement with the business as required by this subparagraph. When amending the agreement of a business receiving an economic-stimulus exemption, the office

may extend the duration of the agreement for a period not to exceed 2 years.

- 4. A qualified target industry business may submit a request for an economic-stimulus exemption to the office in lieu of any tax refund claim scheduled to be submitted after January 1, 2009 2005, but before July 1, 2010 2006.
- 5. A qualified target industry business that receives an economic-stimulus exemption may not receive a tax refund for the period covered by the exemption.
- (c) The agreement must be signed by the director and by an authorized officer of the qualified target industry business within 120 days after the issuance of the letter of certification under subsection (3), but not before passage and receipt of the resolution of local financial support. The office may grant an extension of this period at the written request of the qualified target industry business.
- (d) The agreement must contain the following legend, clearly printed on its face in bold type of not less than 10 points in size: "This agreement is neither a general obligation of the State of Florida, nor is it backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Florida. Payment of tax refunds are conditioned on and subject to specific annual appropriations by the Florida Legislature of moneys sufficient to pay amounts authorized in section 288.106, Florida Statutes."
 - (5) ANNUAL CLAIM FOR REFUND. --
- (a) To be eligible to claim any scheduled tax refund, a qualified target industry business that has entered into a tax

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refund agreement with the office under subsection (4) must apply by January 31 of each fiscal year to the office for the tax refund scheduled to be paid from the appropriation for the fiscal year that begins on July 1 following the January 31 claims-submission date. The office may, upon written request, grant a 30-day extension of the filing date.

- (b) The claim for refund by the qualified target industry business must include a copy of all receipts pertaining to the payment of taxes for which the refund is sought and data related to achievement of each performance item specified in the tax refund agreement. The amount requested as a tax refund may not exceed the amount specified for the relevant fiscal year in that agreement.
- (c) A tax refund may not be approved for a qualified target industry business unless the required local financial support has been paid into the account for that refund. If the local financial support provided is less than 20 percent of the approved tax refund, the tax refund must be reduced. In no event may the tax refund exceed an amount that is equal to 5 times the amount of the local financial support received. Further, funding from local sources includes any tax abatement granted to that business under s. 196.1995 or the appraised market value of municipal or county land conveyed or provided at a discount to that business. The amount of any tax refund for such business approved under this section must be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement granted or the value of the land granted; and the limitations in subsection (2) and paragraph (3) (e) (f) must

be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement or the value of the land granted. A report listing all sources of the local financial support shall be provided to the office when such support is paid to the account.

- A prorated tax refund, less a 5-percent penalty, shall be approved for a qualified target industry business provided all other applicable requirements have been satisfied and the business proves to the satisfaction of the director that it has achieved at least 80 percent of its projected employment and that the average wage paid by the business is at least 90 percent of the average wage specified in the tax refund agreement, but in no case less than 115 percent of the average private sector wage in the area available at the time of certification, or 150 percent or 200 percent of the average private sector wage if the business requested the additional per-job tax refund authorized in paragraph (2)(b) for wages above those levels. The prorated tax refund shall be calculated by multiplying the tax refund amount for which the qualified target industry business would have been eligible, if all applicable requirements had been satisfied, by the percentage of the average employment specified in the tax refund agreement which was achieved, and by the percentage of the average wages specified in the tax refund agreement which was achieved.
- (e) The director, with such assistance as may be required from the office, the Department of Revenue, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall, by June 30 following the scheduled date for submission of the tax refund claim, specify by written

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order the approval or disapproval of the tax refund claim and, if approved, the amount of the tax refund that is authorized to be paid to the qualified target industry business for the annual tax refund. The office may grant an extension of this date on the request of the qualified target industry business for the purpose of filing additional information in support of the claim.

- (f) The total amount of tax refund claims approved by the director under this section in any fiscal year must not exceed the amount authorized under s. 288.095(3).
- (g) This section does not create a presumption that a tax refund claim will be approved and paid.
- (h) Upon approval of the tax refund under paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), the Chief Financial Officer shall issue a warrant for the amount specified in the written order. If the written order is appealed, the Chief Financial Officer may not issue a warrant for a refund to the qualified target industry business until the conclusion of all appeals of that order.
- (8) EXPIRATION.--An applicant may not be certified as qualified under this section after June 30, 2014 2010. A tax refund agreement existing on that date shall continue in effect in accordance with its terms.
- Section 17. Subsection (3) and paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section 288.107, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 288.107 Brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds.--
- (3) CRITERIA. -- The minimum criteria for participation in the brownfield redevelopment bonus refund are:

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- (a) The creation of at least 10 new full-time permanent jobs. Such jobs shall not include construction or site rehabilitation jobs associated with the implementation of a brownfield site agreement as described in s. 376.80(5).
- (b) The completion of a fixed capital investment of at least \$2 million in mixed-use business activities, including multiunit housing, commercial, retail, and industrial in brownfield areas, by an eligible business applying for a refund under paragraph (2) (b) which provides benefits to its employees.
- (c) That the designation as a brownfield will diversify and strengthen the economy of the area surrounding the site.
- (d) That the designation as a brownfield will promote capital investment in the area beyond that contemplated for the rehabilitation of the site.
- (e) A resolution adopted by the governing board of the county or municipality in which the project will be located that recommends that certain types of businesses be approved.
 - (4) PAYMENT OF BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT BONUS REFUNDS .--
- (f) Applications shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. The office shall review all applications submitted under s. 288.106 or other similar application forms for other eligible businesses as defined in paragraph (1)(e) which indicate that the proposed project will be located in a brownfield and determine, with the assistance of the Department of Environmental Protection, that the project location is within a brownfield as provided in this act.

Section 18. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) and subsection (7) of section 288.108, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.108 High-impact business.--

- (5) APPLICATIONS; CERTIFICATION PROCESS; GRANT AGREEMENT.--
- (b) Applications shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall review each submitted application and inform the applicant business whether or not its application is complete within 10 working days. Once the application is deemed complete, Enterprise Florida, Inc., has 10 working days within which to evaluate the application and recommend approval or disapproval of the application to the director. In recommending an applicant business for approval, Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall include a recommended grant award amount in its evaluation forwarded to the office.
- (c) Upon receipt of the evaluation and recommendation of Enterprise Florida, Inc., the director has 5 working days to enter a final order that either approves or disapproves an applicant business as a qualified high-impact business facility, unless the business requests an extension of the time. The final order shall specify the total amount of the qualified high-impact business facility performance grant award, the performance conditions that must be met to obtain the award, and the schedule for payment of the performance grant.
- (7) REPORTING. -- The office shall by December 1 of each year issue a complete and detailed report of all designated

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high-impact sectors, all applications received and their disposition, all final orders issued, and all payments made, including analyses of benefits and costs, types of projects supported, and employment and investments created. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 19. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (3) of section 288.1088, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.1088 Quick Action Closing Fund. --

- (3) (a) Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall review applications pursuant to s. 288.061(1) and determine eligibility of each project consistent with the criteria in subsection (2). Enterprise Florida, Inc., in consultation with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, may waive these criteria based on extraordinary circumstances or in rural areas of critical economic concern if the project would significantly benefit the local or regional economy. Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall evaluate individual proposals for high-impact business facilities and forward recommendations regarding the use of moneys in the fund for such facilities to the director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. Such evaluation and recommendation must include, but need not be limited to:
- 1. A description of the type of facility or infrastructure, its operations, and the associated product or service associated with the facility.

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- 2. The number of full-time-equivalent jobs that will be created by the facility and the total estimated average annual wages of those jobs or, in the case of privately developed rural infrastructure, the types of business activities and jobs stimulated by the investment.
- 3. The cumulative amount of investment to be dedicated to the facility within a specified period.
- 4. A statement of any special impacts the facility is expected to stimulate in a particular business sector in the state or regional economy or in the state's universities and community colleges.
- 5. A statement of the role the incentive is expected to play in the decision of the applicant business to locate or expand in this state or for the private investor to provide critical rural infrastructure.
- 6. A report evaluating the quality and value of the company submitting a proposal. The report must include:
- a. A financial analysis of the company, including an evaluation of the company's short-term liquidity ratio as measured by its assets to liability, the company's profitability ratio, and the company's long-term solvency as measured by its debt-to-equity ratio;
 - b. The historical market performance of the company;
 - c. A review of any independent evaluations of the company;
- d. A review of the latest audit of the company's financial statement and the related auditor's management letter; and

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- e. A review of any other types of audits that are related to the internal and management controls of the company.
- Upon receipt of the evaluation and recommendation from Enterprise Florida, Inc., the director shall recommend approval or disapproval of a project for receipt of funds from the Quick Action Closing Fund within 22 calendar days to the Governor. In recommending a project, the director shall include proposed performance conditions that the project must meet to obtain incentive funds. The Governor shall provide the evaluation of projects recommended for approval to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and consult with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives before giving final approval for a project. The Executive Office of the Governor shall recommend approval of a project and the release of funds pursuant to the legislative consultation and review requirements set forth in s. 216.177. The recommendation must include proposed performance conditions that the project must meet in order to obtain funds.
- (c) Upon the approval of the Governor, the director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and the business shall enter into a contract that sets forth the conditions for payment of moneys from the fund. The contract must include the total amount of funds awarded; the performance conditions that must be met to obtain the award, including, but not limited to, net new employment in the state, average salary, and total capital investment; demonstrate a baseline of current service and a measure of enhanced capability; the methodology

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for validating performance; the schedule of payments from the fund; and sanctions for failure to meet performance conditions. The contract must provide that payment of moneys from the fund is contingent upon sufficient appropriation of funds by the Legislature and upon sufficient release of appropriated funds by the Legislative Budget Commission.

Section 20. Section 288.10895, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

288.10895 .--Benefit of Economic Development Incentives.

- (1) Any person as defined in Section 1.01(3) that is entitled to receive a tax credit or investment or economic development incentive pursuant to any provision of Florida Statutes may transfer such credit or incentive as provided in this section.
- transfer any unused credit or incentive in whole or in units of not less than 25 percent of the remaining credit or incentive.

 The transferee may utilize such credit or incentive in the same manner and with the same limitations as provided in this section and in the provisions creating such credit or incentive and to the same extent as if they were the original recipient provided that the total amount does not exceed the maximum amount of credit or incentives to which the original recipient would have been entitled.
- (3) Any transferred credit or incentive may not be transferred again except they may transfer to a surviving or acquiring entity subject to the same conditions and limitations

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as described in this section and in the provisions creating such credit or incentive.

(4) ELIGIBLE TRANSFERS.

- (a) A credit or incentive may be transferred after a merger or acquisition to the surviving or acquiring entity.
- (b) An entity treated as a partnership or a disregarded entity may transfer a credit or incentive to its partners, members or parent.
- (c) A corporation may transfer a credit or incentive to other members of its affiliated group of corporations as defined in Section 220.03(1)(b).
- a result of an examination or audit by the applicable agency, such deficiency or repayment shall be recovered from the first person or the surviving or acquiring entity to have claimed such credit up to the amount of credit taken. Any subsequent deficiency or repayment shall be assessed against any person acquiring and claiming such credit, or in the case of multiple succeeding persons, in the order of credit succession.
- (6) A person may not transfer a credit or incentive if the transferee that receives the credit or incentive is not subject to the tax for which the credit or incentive is allowed or is unable to otherwise utilize such credit or incentive.
- (7) An agency or agencies may adopt rules related to their administration of a credit or other incentive necessary to implement and administer this section including rules, forms, specific procedures and guidelines for transferring and claiming

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a credit or incentive, and the method by which a transferor or transferee shall notify the agency of the transfer of the credit or incentive.

(8) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the credit established in Section 220.186.

Section 21. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

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